

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 SY-05 IO-13 MCT-01 CIAE-00

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SSO-00 NSCE-00 ARAE-00 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2632

INFO USUN NEW YORK 0302

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0864

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: OAS, GJ, ASEC

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VIOLENCE AT OAS MEETING IN GRENADA

REF: (A) STATE 086644, (B) BRIDGETOWN 0787

1. THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE AT THE FORTHCOMING OASGA DOES, OF COURSE, EXIST. DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE THAT CONSIDERABLE VIOLENCE ATTENDED INDEPENDENCE OF GRENADA; THAT PRIME MINISTER GAIRY AND PRINCIPAL ELEMENT OF OPPOSITION, NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM), CORDIALLY DETEST EACH OTHER; THAT NJM IS A MARXIST ORGANIZATION (WITH ALL THAT IMPLIES FOR USE OF VIOLENCE); THAT GAIRY MAINTAINS A "PRIVATE ARMY" OF THUGS WHO IN RECENT PAST HAVE RESORTED TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME, INCLUDING BEATINGS AND ARSON; AND THAT LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION MAURICE BISHOP HAS RECENTLY BEEN TOURING THE CARIBBEAN IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT GAIRY WITH GOVERNMENTS

OF GRENADA'S NEIGHBORS. REF (B) NOTED POSSIBILITY THAT OPPOSITION WOULD USE OAS GATHERING TO GAIN PUBLICITY FOR ITS CONTENTION THAT GAIRY GOVERNMENT IS INSTRUMENT OF US

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IMPERIALISM.WE MIGHT HAVE ADDED THAT PUBLICITY, IN WHATEVER FORM AND FOR WHATEVER REASON, SO LONG AS IT ENHANCES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NJM AND/OR MAKES GAIRY LOOK TYRANNICAL, SILLY OR WEAK, IS GRIST FOR NJM MILL.

2. IT IS RELEVANT IN THIS CONNECTION THAT GRENADIAN JOURNALIST ALISTER HUGHES HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN (AND HAD

PUBLISHED OUTSIDE GRENADA) ARTICLE SUGGESTING THAT, LIKE UGANDA'S IDI AMIN, GAIRY SHOULD BE BARRED FROM ATTENDANCE AT COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE. REFERRING TO INVESTIGATION OF EVENTS AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE, HUGHES NOTED: "THE DUFFUS COMMISSIONERS FOUND THAT (LIKE AMIN) MR. GAIRY SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH GANGS OF CRIMINALS UNDER HIS PERSONAL CONTROL. THEY WERE FREE (LIKE AMIN'S CRIMINALS) TO BRUTALISE AND KILL MR. GAIRY'S CRITICS AND OPPONENTS. NO LAW COULD TOUCH THEM. THEY DID AS THEY LIKE UNDER MR. GAIRY'S COMMAND AND, AS MINISTER OF SECURITY, MR. GAIRY NEVER INSTITUTED INVESTIGATIONS INTO THEIR EXCESSES WHICH RESULTED IN UNSPEAKABLE ATROCITIES AND DEATH. IN FACT, MR. GAIRY DID JUST THE OPPOSITE. WHEN, UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE DUFFUS COMMISSIONERS, HE WAS FORCED TO 'DISBAND' THESE CRIMINALS, HE CREATED A 'DEFENCE FORCE' AND PUT MAY OF THEM IN UNIFORM."

3. CHAVES' COMMENT THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE OASGA WERE BARELY UNDER WAY IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH REPORT CITED IN REFTEL (B) THAT UPI STAFFER WHO RECENTLY VISITED GRENADA FOUND LACK OF PREPARATION "APPALLING." DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY GOG ASSURANCES THAT ALL IS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO PLAN. FOR EXAMPLE, GAIRY WAS RECENTLY QUOTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HAD OBTAINED 40 TYPEWRITERS FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER HERE HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, OTTAWA REFUSED GAIRY'S REQUEST. BRITTON

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